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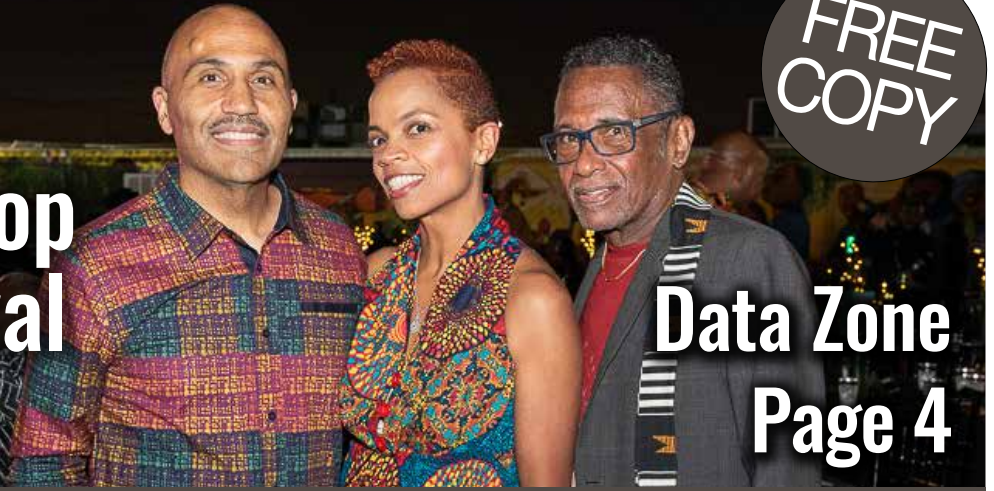
New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

## Ashe Rooftop Festival 2024



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Data Zone Page 4

October 19 - October 25, 2024 59th Year Volume 25 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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# RANDAL L. GAINES

*Louisiana Democratic Party Chair Speaks on the Upcoming Election*

A DATA NEWS WEEKLY EXCLUSIVE



Randal L. Gaines is the Chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party. He is the 3rd African American to hold this post. He's been a leading voice in the Democratic Party, working with leaders from across the state to pass legislation that has a positive impact in the lives of voters.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

**Voting Matters**

On October 18, 2024, early voting begins for an election where the future of Democracy is on the ballot.

This is one of the many talking points of the Democratic Party in their case to get Kamala Harris elected President of the United States.

Data News Weekly spoke to Randal L. Gaines, Chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party (The third African American to lead the party). We talked to him about their agenda and the future of their party.

**Making A Difference (A Record of Effective Leadership)**

Randal L. Gaines is a product of the River Parishes. Gaines has distinguished himself as an attorney, public servant, and military leader.

“In this election and moving forward we are focused on not only getting people to the polls to vote, but to

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

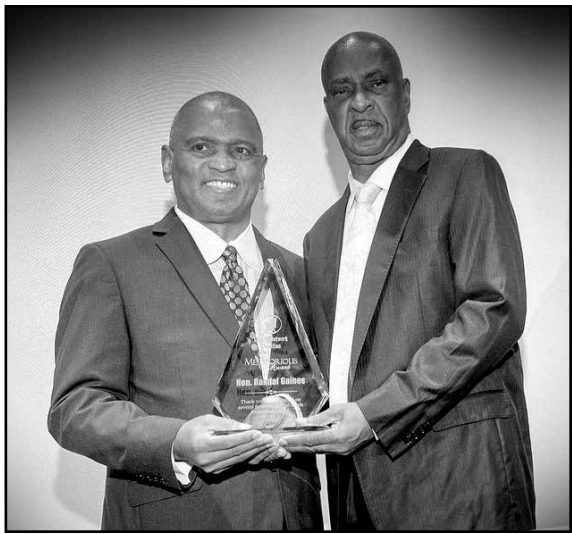
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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Chairman Gaines (Middle Photo with VP and Democratic Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris) states, that this is a history-making election and that all people should get out and let their voices be heard at the polls.

Louisiana Democratic Party: Building Bridges and Creating Solutions

“Voter apathy is not a lack of interest in voting and civic engagement, it is a lack of leadership connecting with the issues that matter most to voters,” remarks Gaines.

“We are now traveling statewide visiting communities to understand their needs and building our policy agendas in this fashion. I think sometimes there are disconnects between the leaders and those they serve. In the LDP, we are in the process of working on solutions that impact families across the state regardless of whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents.”

“The Louisiana Democratic Party, and the party nationwide, is about working toward solutions, building bridges that connect people across the political spectrum. We realize that voter engagement must go beyond political cycles if we are to make this state a better state for all our residents,” says Gaines.

rebuild from the ground up gaining the voters’ confidence and winning local elections,” says Gaines.

Gaines serves as State Representative, State of Louisiana, District 57. As a State Legislator for the State of Louisiana, State Representative Randal Gaines’s duties include creating, advocating, and passing laws to govern the State of Louisiana, as well as enacting laws that ensure effective and prudent investment, management, and allo-

cation of state revenue.

His legislative record has had an impact that matters to the constituents. As a member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, he led the statewide charge to enable the passage of the Constitutional Amendment repealing the “Non-unanimous Jury Verdict Law” removing the last racially discriminatory Jim Crow Era Law from Louisiana law books. Where he organized the voter turn out effort that enabled the provision

repealing the law to win a remarkable 61 of the state’s 64 parishes.

Historic Election and the Right to Representation

“This election is important in enfranchising more of our constituents. We have a newly created 6th Congressional District, and it is a step forward for a state that is 33% African American. They need to have representation that re-

flects the issues that are important to them.”

While these new developments are encouraging, this does not always equal voters getting to the polls. This is not only the case with African American voters, but others as well. Voter apathy is a real phenomenon, and Gaines believes the Louisiana Democratic Party has a strategy that will address this problem.

# ROUSES MARKETS

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**\$5.99 LB**

**MORE WAYS TO SAVE**

**SAVE \$6.97**  
When You Buy 3

6 PACK HALF LITERS  
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**3/\$11**

**MORE WAYS TO SAVE**

**SAVE up to \$5.00**

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12 CT SINGLE SERVE OR 10 - 12 OZ BAG  
**Community Coffee**

**\$3.99**  
HOT PRICE

**MORE WAYS TO SAVE**

**SAVE \$9.90**  
When You Buy 10

10.5 - 11 OZ CAN SELECTED  
**Campbell's Soup**

**10/\$10**

FIND MORE WAYS TO SAVE AT ROUSES

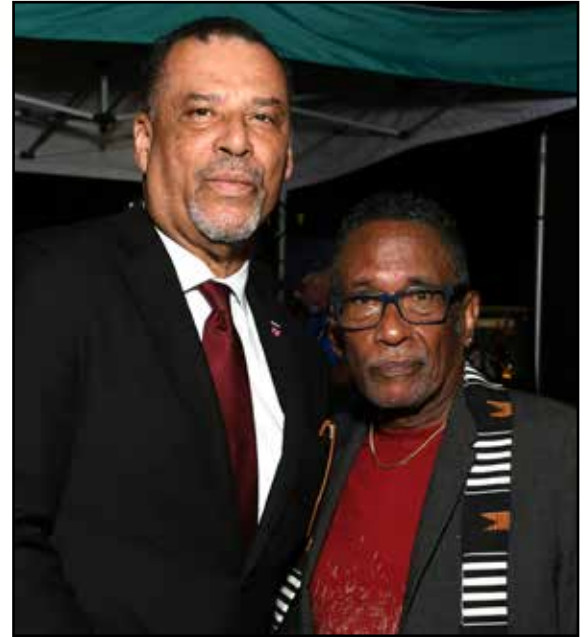
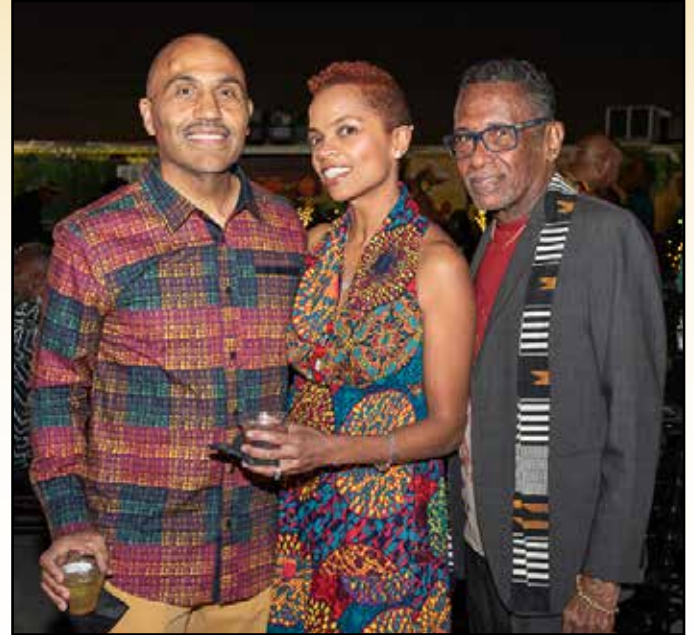


# Ashe Rooftop Festival 2024

Photos by Glenn Summers and Gerald Villavasso  
Data News Weekly Contributors

On October 11th and 12th, The Ashé Cultural Arts Center's 2nd Annual Rooftop Festival & Gala was a celebration of the people, places, and philosophies of the African Diaspora and over 25 years of impact through art, cultural programming, and community development work in New Orleans.

It was two days of great music, food and fun. Data News Weekly was there; here are some of the highlights.



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.





Ashe's Second Annual Rooftop Festival was an amazing weekend and a party with a purpose. A who's who of New Orleans came out to enjoy this great event.

# VOTE DEMOCRAT & DO SOMETHING LOUISIANA!

**EARLY VOTING**

Friday, October 18 -  
Tuesday, October 29  
(Except Sundays)

**ELECTION DAY**

Tuesday,  
November 5



**LOUISIANA  
DEMOCRATS**



**KAMALA HARRIS  
TIM WALZ**

**President & VP  
of the United States**



**TROY A. CARTER, SR.**  
**U.S. Representative  
District 2**



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# Early Voting from October 18th through October 29th

**Data News Weekly  
Encouraging All to Get  
Out and Vote!!!**

**Benjamin Bates  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor**

It is that time again to let your voices be heard at the polls. Early voting in Louisiana for the upcoming Tuesday, Nov. 5th Presidential Election begins Friday, Oct. 18th and runs until Tuesday, Oct. 29th.

During these days registered voters can cast their ballots early to decide the next President of The United States along with local races and amendments.

Contests taking place in New Orleans include U.S. House of Rep-



resentative District 2, races for the Orleans Parish School Board, and an amendment surrounding increased coastal protection.

**Voter Information**

The last day of online voter registration is Tuesday, Oct. 15th. The last day to register by mail was Monday, Oct. 7th.

The last day to request a mail-in ballot is Friday, Nov. 1st and the last day to mail it in is Monday, Nov. 4th.

Early voting locations will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. across all parishes.

**These are the early voting locations in Orleans Parish:**

**City Hall,**  
1300 Perdido St., #1w24  
New Orleans, La 70112-2127

**Algiers Courthouse**  
225 Morgan St Rm#105  
New Orleans, La 70114

**Voting Machine Warehouse**  
8870 Chef Menteur Hwy  
New Orleans, La 70127

**Lake Vista Community Center**  
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd, 2nd Floor Meeting Room  
New Orleans, La 70124

**Treme Community Center**  
900 North Villere St  
New Orleans, La 70116



## Making New Orleans Culture Globally Accessible

*NOTCF Enhances the Cultural Economy Through New Information System*

**Data News Staff Edited Report**

The New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund (NOTCF) is on the search for businesses to develop its groundbreaking Cultural Information System (CIS). Through this digital platform, NOTCF will promote local cultural artists, organizations and events while amplifying resources, and local programming for the community and tourists.

The CIS Development is in response to recommendations from NOTCF's Cultural Working Group (CWG), a cohort of local cultural community leaders that inform the organization's programming and funding opportunities. The goal of this initiative is to enhance the cultural economy and engage more global business directly with local talent, ultimately, enhancing the tourism experience.

NOTCF President and CEO, Lisa D. Alexis, says, "The CIS is a turning point in our mission to support local culture. By creating a centralized hub for cultural information, we can provide artists with



the resources to thrive and expose our vibrant cultural scene to a wider audience."

The planned elements of the CIS include an artist's online platform, an opportunities page, a resource database, a calendar of events, and a regional map of cultural programming. Since 2021, NOTCF has awarded over \$13.7 million in grant funding directly to the culture. This funding underscores NOTCF's

commitment to elevating the cultural identity of New Orleans, ensuring its preservation while fostering its evolution within a competitive tourism landscape.

The New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund is the resource to elevate cultural artists and programs for sustainable economic growth and impact. For more information, visit [www.notcf.com](http://www.notcf.com) or call 504-381-5740.



# VP Kamala Harris Unveils Extensive Agenda for Black Men, Promises Wealth-Building and Opportunity as Election Nears

**Stacy M. Brown**  
 NNPA Newswire Senior  
 National Correspondent

Vice President Kamala Harris has unveiled an extensive agenda designed to dismantle systemic barriers and foster new opportunities for Black men across America. The agenda, announced on October 14th, spotlights wealth-building, health equity, Criminal Justice Reform, and expanded education and job training access.

Harris's plan aims to address the specific needs of Black men, with initiatives focused on financial empowerment, healthcare, and education.

## Forgivable Loans and Wealth Creation

Harris's economic plan centers on wealth-building and supporting Black entrepreneurship. Her administration would provide one million forgivable loans, each up to \$20,000, to help Black men and others who have faced significant barriers to starting a business. By partnering with community banks and mission-driven lenders, Harris aims to make capital accessible to Black entrepreneurs looking to launch or expand businesses in fields ranging from technology to landscaping and beyond.

Additionally, Harris has proposed a significant expansion of the Small Business Startup Tax Deduction, increasing it from \$5,000 to \$50,000, which would allow Black entrepreneurs to offset startup costs. She also plans to boost access to venture capital, low-interest loans, and incubators specifically for Black-owned businesses. Recognizing that Black entrepreneurs are frequently denied credit, Harris's plan includes reforms to expand affordable banking services and crack down on hidden fees that inhibit wealth accumulation in Black communities.

## Pathways to High-Demand Jobs and Expanded Education Access

Harris's agenda promotes education, training, and mentorship programs to equip Black men with the



skills needed to succeed in high-demand fields. Her plan emphasizes registered apprenticeships and credentialing programs, which would provide hands-on training for jobs in sectors like cybersecurity, renewable energy, and healthcare. She also seeks to eliminate unnecessary college degree requirements for 500,000 federal jobs, making these roles more accessible to Black men who may not have pursued higher education.

To increase the representation of Black male teachers—a crucial role model for young Black students—Harris said she plans to invest in teacher training programs through the Department of Education. By collaborating with HBCUs and MSIs, the Democratic presidential nominee hopes to build a pipeline for Black male educators, addressing the severe underrepresentation in this profession, where only 1% of teachers are Black men. Research has shown that Black students benefit academically and socially when they have Black male teachers, yet structural barriers have prevented many from entering the field. Harris also supports the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to attract and retain Black male teachers, ensuring they have a pathway to long-term careers in education.

## Affordable Housing, Homeownership, and Financial Literacy

Harris further proposes building three million affordable housing units during her first

term to address the housing crisis. She would offer up to \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, aiming to triple the number of new Black homeowners annually by the end of her term. The initiative would specifically target those who

have been unable to buy homes due to a lack of generational wealth, which disproportionately affects Black families.

Still, another facet of her plan would tackle racial bias in home appraisals, a pervasive issue that often results in undervalued properties in majority-Black neighborhoods. Her proposal would mandate training and accountability measures for appraisers to ensure that Black homeowners receive fair property valuations, helping to close the racial wealth gap.

Harris's detailed plan appears to offer Black men a vision of leadership, opportunity, and economic empowerment, which she argues is essential for the future of Black communities. She believes investing in education, health, and wealth-building would help address systemic inequities and build a path to prosperity for Black men nationwide.

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#### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can't wait to hear from you!

#### Job Opportunity

#### Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net)

This space can be yours for only \$50

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# WATCH THE 2024 DTU FELLOWS POWER THEIR FUTURES WITH CHEVROLET

Together, these 10 HBCU students drive the summer internship of a lifetime with Black-owned newspapers



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-  
NNPA Journalism Fellow



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**Amyah Fountain**  
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